

Narpulungup News

April
Number 1 2013

from the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park

www.fitzgeraldfriends.org.au



IT'S SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL TIME AGAIN—PLEASE SEE FORM ON PAGE 5

FROM THE AGM—PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year has passed, and the real progress has been happening at Twertup, see Gil Craig's report on page 2.

Grants.

There have been several successful grant applications, some of which are to 'Friends', and others which will indirectly benefit us by providing extra support for FRNP. Thanks are due to the applicants for and administrators of grants, Gil Craig, Steve Janicke and Vicki Bilney.

- \$30,000-00 to 'Friends' an Environmental Community Grant in the Major Conservation Organisation category. To be used for the continued restoration of Twertup.
- \$14,330-00 to 'Friends' from Caring for Country for road works to facilitate public access to Twertup
- \$20,000-00 from Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife.
- \$40,000-00 State NRM Community Grant, for materials, equipment and a skilled Stonemason.

Receipt of these grants has meant that we have started to get quotes from local businesses for some of the work. In particular: \$30M to SCNRM for dieback control, \$250,000-00 to DEC for the Western Ground Parrot captive breeding program and \$26,500-00 in the Biodiversity category to the Friends of the Western Ground Parrot to monitor WGP populations.

Activities.

Busy Bees at Twertup were numerous, some were postponed due to wet weather.

Market days at: Bremer Bay Easter 2012 at the Sports' Club.
Fitzgerald Hall, July 2012
Hopetoun, New Year 2013

Recreation

Aquatic Spineless Wonders at Quaalup, with Geraldine. Something for the younger members, and we enjoyed it too.

Wildflower and Heritage walk from Kundip to Lee Creek, Ravensthorpe.

Surveys.

Numbats July 2012 No collared animals seen since then.

Carnaby's Cockatoos. Early October, nest-site survey identified less than last year, but still hanging in there.

Meetings.

Gil Craig, Andy Chapman, Nathan McQuoid and I have attended the DEC convened Project Reference Group meetings. This time last year, DEC stated their

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intention to reconvene the FRNP Advisory Group. This has not been done; in fact the last meeting was postponed twice. I sense procrastination.

I attended the AGM in Perth of the Conservation Council of WA, which was an opportunity to liaise with many interesting people, with similar concerns to our own. I will be attending a SCNRM convened Dieback Field trip at Bremer Bay March 25th.

Many thanks to Geraldine Janicke who has taken over the website administration. So far all of the Office Bearers, and most of the committee have indicated a willingness to be re-elected., and I would like to thank everyone for the year's achievements. Steve and Geraldine Janicke and Vicky Bilney have become familiar with their positions, thanks to all of you. I am willing to stand for a final year as President, and look forward to the coming year.

Anne Gadsby, President 16-03-13

President's postscript to AGM.....

The weather was not kind to 'Friends' for our AGM and many people left early in case it deteriorated. You have read of my thanks to committee members; I would like to add my thanks to Brenda Newbey for her work over several years as our representative on the Conservation Council of WA through which we learn of issues not always in the media. Brenda remains interested in FRNP, in particular the declining Western Ground Parrot situation. She is a very busy member. Thank you Brenda. Katherine Sambrooks address on dieback was very thought provoking; an account will be in next issue. Thank you Katherine. Thanks are also due to Karin and Carsten Richelmann at Quaalup for their hospitality over the AGM. The use of their homestead was much appreciated.

'Friends' presented a stall at the Bremer Bay Easter Fair. There was much male interest in the Twertup rebuild but no new volunteers came forward.

FROM THE AGM—THE NEW COMMITTEE

President	Anne Gadsby
Vice President	Alison Lullfitz
Secretary	Steve Janicke
Treasurer	Vicki Bilney
Newsletter Editor	Andy Chapman
Committee	Geraldine Janicke Ellen Hickman Leonie McMahon
Building sub committee	Ric Pepper Keven Giles Rob Wright



Fellowship outside historic Quaalup homestead following AGM. Photo Geraldine Janicke.

CONGRATULATIONS....

To 'Friends' Tracey Ross and Paul Cory on the birth of **Blake Cory**, born 18 February 2013 and weighing in at 3.3 kg. We are all very happy for the three of you.

TWERTUP UPDATE

The ninth working bee at Twertup on the 20th-21st February was a hive of activity which saw eight volunteers and one Ranger prepare and pour the footings, with Ric Pepper as chief organiser. Greg Wilson, a registered builder from Bremer Bay, came to check that our trenches and mesh were all in order — which they were, of course! Pat Chadwick from the Ravensthorpe Caravan Park gave us a huge contribution with his cement mixer, bobcats, energy and expertise. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) provided half the cement and the aggregate, which was kindly shuttled from Jacup to Twertup by Kingsley Vaux with a loan of Graham McKinlay's loader.

Andy manned the cement mixer, while our regular stalwarts Ric, Steve, Geraldine and Gil kept the concrete in the trenches and smoothed it off to the correct level. We were very pleased that despite the heavy vibrating work by Bill and regular cleaning of the steel shutters by Jane, that the Thompsons afterwards decided to become members of the 'Friends'. At the end of two days of hard work, the exhausted volunteers decided that a professional grano-worker could lay the slab, so expressions of interest are currently being called for this job.

A section of the footings are stepped down due to the slope. The next working bee will entail laying masonry blocks and filling them with concrete to bring the footings up to the correct height. This had been planned for the Sunday following the AGM, but due to heavy rain (again), the day was postponed.

SRH Transport kindly brought 4 pallets of blocks and some bricks for the skirtings from Midland to Albany for free. Gramax Deliveries based at Bremer Bay are transporting them, plus weldmesh for the slab, at a subsidised rate from Albany to Twertup.

In the meantime, DEC have been organising the upgrade of Twertup Track to coincide with their works program at the west end of the park, so that the same contractors can be used for both. Gil Craig, assisted by Libby Sandiford, carried out a flora survey of the proposed three culvert sites to check for Threatened and Priority flora. The Priority Three *Spyridium mucronatum* subsp. *recurvum* was found in and near a spur drain about 30 metres from the first culvert. It is anticipated that the road works will be completed during April, provided rain doesn't put a spanner in the works!

In 2012, 23 individuals (15 of those on-site) volunteered 1,026 hours and travelled nearly 8,000 km for Twertup. This, plus some material gifts, represented an 'in-kind' value of \$48,380! A fabulous effort and huge thanks to all who helped one way or another.

Gil Craig

PHOTO GALLERY FROM DAY ONE AT TWERTUP...



Step one ,compact the trenches.....



Step two, lay out the weldmesh reinforcement...



Step three, have a cup of tea. Geraldine, Jane & Gil.

LOOKING BACK -THE 'FRIENDS' IN 2003

The 2003 AGM was scheduled to be held at Twertup but rain intervened and the meeting was held in the CWA rooms in Jerramungup. The following office bearers were elected:

President	Nathan McQuoid
Vice President	Gil Craig
Secretary	Kim Bennett
Treasurer	Angela Sanders
Newletter Editor	Priscilla Broadbent
Committee	Robyn Cail
	Anne Gadsby
	Mark Jeffrey (building)

Our guest speaker was Dr Pierre Horwitz who addressed us on the topic 'Swamps and Frogs, Fire and Salt'. Pierre's take home message was that both too frequent or extensive fires and secondary salinity have the capacity to permanently alter low points in the landscape which form the swamp habitats for frogs.

As far as Fitzy people and their comings and goings went; Peter Wilkins was head ranger, Lanny Bleakley left the Murray Road ranger station for a job in Tasmania and was replaced by Garry Carr. Active 'Friends' Giles and Elspeth West moved to Canberra.

In April the Conservation Commission visited Ravensthorpe and considered the following issues:

- management of Ravensthorpe Range
- role of the FRNP Advisory Committee
- implications of the Ravensthorpe nickel mine on the local environment and population
- proposed Hopetoun to Bremer Bay coastal route

'Friends activities in 2003 were a course 'Geology in the wilderness' by Bill Moir and a weekend looking at Dryandras and Verticordias presented by Elizabeth George and Margaret Pieroni.

PHOTO GALLERY FROM DAY TWO OF THE TWERTUP FOOTINGS WEEKEND....



Steve checked the levels. Photo G. Craig



Andy mixed the concrete. Photo G. Janicke



Bottom left: Pat delivered the concrete—a task requiring great concentration. Photo J. Thompson



Ric stepped off the footings and supervised us all. Photo G. Janicke



There was no gender bias on this work site, Gil and Geraldine trowel off the footings, Bill spread the concrete and Ric checks all is OK. Photo J. Thompson

Not shown at all, but never the less, a crucial task provided by Jane Thompson was the provision of cups of tea and coffee with cake delivered on the go. We started at 6.30 am and went non stop until lunchtime.

NAME _____

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**I would like to renew my membership/ join
the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park.**

☐ Family \$30 (inc GST) ☐ Individual \$20 (inc GST) ☐ Concession \$12 (inc GST)

☐ Yes, I would like to receive my copy of *Narpulungup News* by email.

I would like to make a donation for the restoration of Twertup.

Here is my gift for

☐ \$40 ☐ \$80 ☐ \$120 ☐ \$160 ☐ \$_____ (my choice)

I would like to make an in-kind contribution to the rebuilding of Twertup.

- ☐ Please let me know when there are working bees (all hands welcome).
- ☐ I have a special skill, eg builder, brick layer, stonemason, painter, carpenter, _____
- ☐ I have equipment or materials, eg cement, scaffolding, _____

I am paying by ☐ cheque/ money order (*payable to Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park Inc*)

□ EFT

Account Name: Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park
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☐ Please tick if a receipt is required.

Post to:

The Treasurer
Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park
PO Box 13
Ongerup WA 6336



The Twertup footings concreting team left to right:

Geraldine and Steve Janicke, Bill Thompson, Gil Craig, Pat Chadwick, Ric Pepper, Andy Chapman.

Photo: Jane Thompson

AND THE FINAL WORD IS.....

From the American conservationist Aldo Leopold:

‘Recreational development is a job not of building roads into lovely country, but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind’.

From ‘A Sand County Almanac’ 1949

Post Print approved no. 100002092 Surface Mail

*If undelivered please return to:
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